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15. (Amended) The method of Claim 14 further comprising the step of communicating information about execution of said tasks to said [remotely located] scheduler means which is remotely located from said at least one computing node.

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected Claim 15 for lack of antecedent basis and Claim 16 because it depends from rejected Claim 15. The language of Claim 15 has been amended to exactly parallel that of Claim 13 from which it depends. Applicants believe that the amendment addresses the Examiner's concerns.

The Examiner has again rejected the pending Claims 1, 2, 4-17 under 35 USC § 103 as unpatentable over the teachings of the Cameron patent in view of the admitted prior art regarding the AIX technology. In addition, the Examiner has rejected Claims 3 and 17 under 35 USC § 103 as unpatentable over the teachings of the Cameron patent in view of the admitted prior art regarding the AIX technology and the teachings of the Ripps reference. Finally, the Examiner has rejected Claim 18 under 35 USC § 103 as unpatentable over the teachings of the

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Cameron patent in view of the admitted prior art regarding the AIX technology and the teachings of the Belo patent.

As previously argued, and as agreed to by the Examiner, the Cameron patent is directed to the scheduling of tasks across multiple nodes (with node defined at Column 2, line 40 as a single processor location) wherein, as specifically stated in Column 2, lines 53-58 and again at Column 7, lines 37-42, "...only one application program is active at a time on any one node and an entire application program is active at once across all of the nodes on which the application program is loaded." While the Cameron patent does state that more than one application program may be loaded on a single node, it clearly requires that only one application be active at any time on that node, and therefore that global scheduling is a trivial task. Moreover, as set forth in detail in the previously-submitted Amendment, none of the other cited references provides the teachings missing from the Cameron patent. The present invention, in contrast to Cameron, provides for multiple tasks of multiple applications being active on the multiple processes of any given node at a time.

Claim 2
language

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The Examiner has reiterated his rejections virtually verbatim, in spite of the fact that the independent claim language had been amended. In the "Response to Amendment" section of the Office Action, however, the Examiner has addressed the previously-submitted amendments and remarks. Specifically, the Examiner has attempted, at Paragraph 7 on pages 11 and 12, to read the Cameron teachings on the claims by suggesting that Cameron has application programs active on different layers at the same time. Applicants contend that the Cameron teachings do not teach or suggest application programs running on different layers at the same time; particularly in light of the aforementioned quotations from Column 2, lines 53-58 and Column 7, lines 37-42. However, even if such a statement had been made by Cameron, it would not apply to the present claims, where clearly Applicants are teaching and claiming the assignment of a schedule of priorities and the local implementation and scheduling according to that schedule of priorities for tasks of multiple application programs assigned to the same layer.

The Examiner goes on to state, at the top of Page 12, that "...multitasking systems such as WINDOWS NT™ have been well known to schedule tasks or threads of execution from

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multiple applications simultaneously." Again, Applicants point out that the claims recite the scheduler means and steps for dynamically creating a prioritized schedule of a plurality of tasks of said more than one application; and, for the local scheduler associated with each of the computing nodes ascertaining which of the plurality of tasks are assigned to each of the plurality of local processes and prioritizing the assigned processes in accordance with the prioritized schedule. The Examiner has presented no teachings regarding any multitasking systems which teach or suggest the invention as claimed.

In the "Response to Arguments" the Examiner goes on to analogize Figure 8 of the present application to the Cameron teachings. As discussed in detail in the Remarks section of the previous Amendment, the scheduling scenario illustrated in Figure 8 of present invention is only one possible scenario to which the present invention applies. While Figure 8 does show (for the purposes of illustrating average time savings) a scenario wherein all of the tasks of prioritized applications B, A, and C occupy all of the processes at each of the respective time intervals 0-10, 10-20 and 20-30, it is clear from the description (see: e.g., Page 8, lines 6-7 and

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Page 12, lines 10-13) that the different processes on a node can, as a result of the invention, be working on different applications at any given time; and, not simply that different applications can be loaded on the node at one time while only one application is executing.

With reference to the Examiner's comments regarding the Cameron partitions, the existence of partitions "...for the execution of tasks of one or more application programs" cannot alter the fact that Cameron explicitly teaches that only one application program is active at a time on any one node and an entire application program is active at once across all of the nodes on which the application program is loaded. The Cameron environment provides partitions which may serve different application programs, but only one application is served at any given time. Cameron neither teaches nor suggests the multi-application task scheduling invention across its different partitions.

Finally, in response to the Examiner's comments regarding Applicants' assertion of the lack of a local scheduler in the cited art, the Applicants herein amend independent Claims 1

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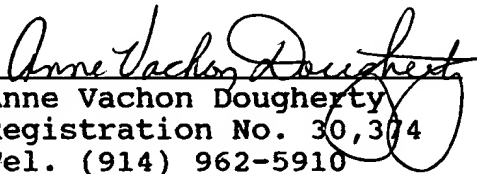
and 11 to explicitly recite the local schedulers at each of the more than one nodes.

In light of the foregoing arguments, it is respectfully requested that the rejections based on the combined teachings of the Cameron patent and AIX material, along with the teachings of the Riggs and Belo references, be withdrawn. Applicants request reconsideration of the claims as amended.

Respectfully submitted,

M.A. COHEN, ET AL

By:


Anne Vachon Dougherty
Registration No. 30,374
Tel. (914) 962-5910